

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the Abstract of the invention in its entirety, and add the following new Abstract:

Blocking artifacts within a sequence of digital images are detected by detecting a grid corresponding to the blocking artifacts. A portion of a digital image is high-pass filtered to supply a set of discontinuity pixels. Blocking artifacts are detected in the set, and rows within the portion are searched for a grid row having a density of blocking artifacts that is substantially larger than that of its neighboring rows.